

Baypark to Bayfair Link



The Bayfair flyover starting to take shape.

What it takes to build a bridge (and get over it!)

Building the Bayfair flyover is akin to completing a challenging 1000+ piece jigsaw puzzle - get a piece out of place and everything is out of sequence.

On the Bay Link project, sequencing of the construction programme is critical. Activities need to happen in a specific order and if one activity shifts, this impacts a number of subsequent activities.

The Bayfair flyover, now rising out of the ground in various stages, is the most complex structure on Bay Link due to its multi-faceted components and it demonstrates the fundamental importance of sequencing on the overall project. Modifying the design of the Bayfair flyover from the original three-span to a four-span bridge (to accommodate the walking and cycling underpass) also added to this complexity.

When designing the flyover, key considerations included accessibility to the Bayfair and HomeZone shopping centres; providing a separate, streamlined freight route from the Tauranga Eastern Link; and improving walking and cycling connections.

The Bayfair flyover is comprised of five bridge supports - three piers and two embankments (approach ramps).

Prior to construction of the flyover's first stage getting underway earlier this year, the earth below first had to be prepared and strengthened (with both stone columns and lattice piles) in order to sustain the weight of the flyover itself and also to provide further stability and limit liquefaction in the event of an earthquake.

Starting in April, the first pier (one of the five bridge supports) was constructed in the middle of Bayfair roundabout. In recent months, the flyover's southern approach ramp has gradually risen out of the ground and will soon enter a settlement period when no further construction activity will take place. After settlement has occurred, the final road surface can be laid on the southern approach ramp.

Construction of the next stage of the flyover could only get underway once the two outer box sections (on the Bayfair and Matapihi sides)

of the underpass were built, and traffic was relocated over the top of them. This took place during a traffic switch in November and following the switch, space for a work zone was created in the middle of SH2, where construction of two further bridge piers (and the underpass' central trench) is now underway.

Prior to Christmas, it's anticipated that the columns of the flyover's remaining pier will be craned into position. The second pier is located in the middle of the Bayfair roundabout (near the existing/first pier), and the third and final pier will be located north of the Bayfair roundabout, next to where the underpass is under construction.

Both piers are currently due to be completed by late Summer 2022.

While the underpass' central trench is being built, construction of the flyover's northern approach ramp will also be underway, north of the Bayfair roundabout. This component is due to be complete in late Autumn 2022, before entering a settlement period.

Also in Autumn, concrete beams will be installed to connect four of the five bridge supports, and in Winter, once the settlement period of the northern approach ramp is complete, beams will connect the final pier with the last bridge support structure.

Following the required settlement periods, pavement construction and installation of barriers and other finishing elements, the Bayfair flyover is anticipated to open under temporary traffic management in 2023.

Once the Bayfair flyover is complete, it will improve safety and accessibility and transform how people move through the area. Similar to the Hewletts Road flyover, there will be a lane in each direction, separating heavy vehicles heading to the Port from local traffic. In addition to the flyover lanes, there will be two ground level, grade-separated lanes either side of the flyover to enable flow of local traffic, providing a total of three lanes in each direction.

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Plan ahead: upcoming closures over Summer

January 2022: SH2 closure for installation of final elements on interchange bridge at Te Maunga

State Highway 2 between Bayfair roundabout and Te Maunga intersection is scheduled to close over a weekend in mid-January 2022 while some of the final elements of the SH2 bridge, part of the Te Maunga interchange, are installed.

Prior to the interchange opening to motorists in 2022, barriers and service ducting need be installed on the bridge. Due to the installation of these elements taking place above SH2, the closure is necessary to keep road users safe.

The closure is anticipated to be in place **from approximately 1.00am on Saturday 15 January until 5.30am on Monday 17 January 2022.**

This is a significant closure that will impact travel times for locals and visitors. Delays are expected and road users are encouraged to travel outside of this closure where possible, or use alternative routes.

Work will take place during day and night shifts to minimise the closure's duration. This same section of road was closed in July for installation of 10 reinforced concrete bridge beams. While the road was anticipated to close for the entire weekend at that time, it was reopened ahead of schedule.

A signposted detour will be available via Girven Road, Maranui Street, Sandhurst



Drive and the Sandhurst Drive/Mangatawa Interchange. **Visit nzta.govt.nz/temaunga for full detour information.**

Throughout January, significant road works will be underway on several of Tauranga's key roads. Plan for delays, allow extra time for travel and check journeys.nzta.govt.nz.

February/March 2022: Lane closures on Girven Road

Following Waitangi weekend in February and continuing into March 2022, Girven Road between the Gloucester Road intersection and the Bayfair roundabout will be reduced to one lane in each direction to allow for construction of the permanent road in this area. Dates of these lane closures will be confirmed in January.

This section of road was recently closed for a three-day period to allow for site investigations ahead of the works in February and March.

During the closure in February/March:

- Only one lane of Girven Road headed towards the Bayfair roundabout will be able to proceed straight at the Gloucester Road signalised intersection.

- Only the right-hand lane will be able to turn right onto Girven Road from the Bayfair Shopping Centre carpark at the Gloucester Road signalised intersection.
- Existing vehicle access to all Girven Road properties will be maintained.
- Pedestrians and cyclists are not expected to be impacted.

February is typically a busy time of year on the roads with people returning to work after the Summer break and students returning to school and university. Delays are anticipated and road users are advised to plan ahead and allow extra time for travel.

More information will be shared on the Bay Link website in the New Year.

Bringing Bay Link to life

A new animated video of the Bay Link site shows how the project will be constructed through to completion.

The video, which can be viewed on the Bay Link website, helps bring the project to life and shows the updated construction sequencing to the end of the project.

The animation video reveals highlights and features of both the Bayfair and Te Maunga ends of the project, and demonstrates how

the project will help improve safety, accessibility and connectivity.

As part of the revised construction sequencing confirmed earlier this year, the lattice ground improvements, new pedestrian and cyclist underpass and the redesigned four-span Bayfair flyover have all been included in the animation video.

View the video at: nzta.govt.nz/baylink-videos



Bay Link through the lens: A year in review

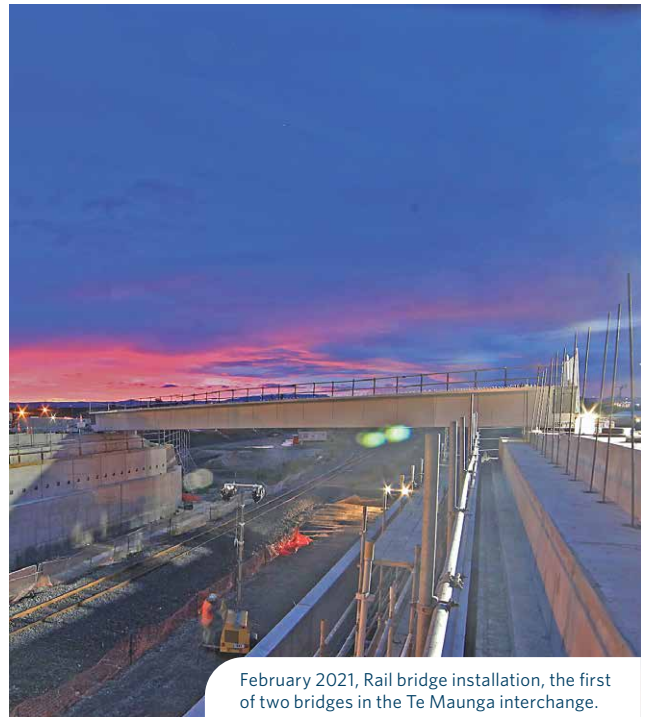
Bay Link has come a long way in the space of a year. Here's a snapshot of Bay Link through the lens in 2021. Visit the image gallery on the Bay Link website for more photos: nzta.govt.nz/baylink-gallery

Highlights of 2021 include:

- Completing the redesigned lattice ground improvement works at Bayfair, which has enabled the construction of the bridge approach ramps and piers, now clearly evident above ground.
- Progressing the pedestrian and cyclist underpass at Bayfair. Recently the outer box sections of the Bayfair and Matapihi sides of the underpass were completed. Construction of the central open-air trench is now about to commence.
- Progressing the Bayfair flyover. Following the completion of the bridge's first pier (one of five bridge supports) earlier this year, construction of two further piers are now underway. The southern approach ramp is nearing completion and the northern approach ramp is due to get underway in early 2022.
- Construction of the Te Maunga interchange (comprised of the SH2 bridge and the SH29A rail bridge). The final elements of the SH2 bridge are due to be complete early 2022. The interchange is anticipated to open under temporary traffic management in the first quarter of 2022.



January 2021, Te Maunga intersection before the installation of bridges.



February 2021, Rail bridge installation, the first of two bridges in the Te Maunga interchange.



March 2021, Lattice ground improvements near Bayfair roundabout.



April 2021, The first bridge pier for the Bayfair flyover under construction, one of five bridge support structures.

Bay Link through the lens: A year in review cont.



May 2021, The pedestrian and cyclist underpass gets underway near Bayfair.



June 2021, The structure of the new pedestrian and cyclist underpass takes shape.



July 2021, SH2 bridge installation, the second of two bridges in the Te Maunga interchange.



August 2021, The southern approach ramp of the Bayfair flyover gaining height.



September 2021, The first completed bridge pier of the four-span Bayfair flyover.



October 2021, Te Maunga interchange, comprised of the SH2 bridge and the SH29A rail bridge.

Bay Link through the lens: A year in review cont.



November 2021, Aerial view of the construction of Bayfair flyover's various components.



December 2021, Concrete barriers being installed on the rail bridge, part of Te Maunga interchange.



Bay Link Christmas Shutdown

The Bay Link project team would like to thank you for your ongoing patience. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season and remind you to take care on the roads, whether you're travelling near or far.

The Bay Link construction site will be **closed from 12pm Thursday 23 December 2021 and will re-open 9am Wednesday 5 January 2022.**

Temporary speed restrictions remain in place throughout the site during this time.

The Bay Link contact number 0508 222 4636 remains operational over the Christmas/New Year period.

About the project

Every day, approximately 38,000 vehicles travel along the Baypark to Bayfair Link (Bay Link). Comprised of State Highway 2 (SH2) and State Highway 29A (SH29A), it's a busy route with a diverse mix of users.

The Bay Link project will improve safety by separating local traffic from the state highway and rail corridor, provide safer walking and cycling connections, and complete the SH2 Eastern Corridor for the Bay of Plenty.

Bay Dreams 2022 cancelled

Each January, thousands of people typically descend upon Baypark for the annual Bay Dreams music festival. Every year, the Bay Link project team, in conjunction with Tauranga City Council, the Bay Dreams event team and other partners, work in close collaboration to minimise the impact upon motorists and residents while the festival is on.

Due to the ongoing uncertainty of COVID-19, Bay Dreams 2022 has been cancelled.



For more information

For more information on the Bay Link project visit our website: nzta.govt.nz/baylink

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